

# A Checklist for Evaluating Information from the WWW

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You should always evaluate information found on the WWW. **START** is an acronym that will help you remember the five categories of criteria for evaluating information sources found on the WWW. The letters in the acronym stand for:

**S**cope   **T**reatment   **A**uthority   **R**elevance   **T**imeliness

Read to familiarize yourself with the five categories of criteria in the **START** checklist for information found on the WWW.

## **START Checklist for the WWW**

<b>S</b> cope	Are all aspects of the topic covered?
	Is the coverage in depth?
	Does the information add new or unique information about your topic?
<b>T</b> reatment	Are there visual aids that enhance the text?
	Is the information presented as a fact or opinion?
	Is evidence provided?
	Are conclusions logical? Are there links to more information or references?
<b>A</b> uthority	Is the information free from bias?
	Is the information consistent with information from other sources?
	Are the author's qualifications presented? Is the page signed?
	Is there any information about the author available.?
	Does the author have an educational background related to the topic?
	Does the author have other expertise related to the topic?
	Is the author affiliated with an educational institution or other reputable organization? Is .edu for "education" part of the URL? Is .gov for "government" part of the URL?
	Is the information from a web site or an organization that is reliable?
<b>R</b> elevance	Do you know anything about the reputation of the organization? Is there any information on the page about the organization?
	Does the information address your topic?
	Does the information provide evidence for your point of view?
	Does the information verify other information you are using from other sources?
<b>T</b> imeliness	Is there a date provided for the web page and the information on it?
	Is the information sufficiently current for your purpose?
	Regardless of the date, is the information still useful?